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SUBJ/BLAST OVERPRESSURE AND COGNITIVE MONITORING PROGRAM//

REF/A/DOC/DEPSECDEF MEMO/08JUN2022//
REF/B/DOC/DEPSECDEF MEMO/08AUG2024//
REF/C/DOC/DOD BOP REFERENCE AND INFORMATION GUIDE/OCT 2024//
REF/D/DOC/DODINST 6490.13/28MAY2024//
REF/E/DOC/DODINST 6490.03/19JUL2019//
REF/F/DOC/USD(P&R) MEMO/12DEC2024//

NARR/REF A IS THE DOD BLAST OVERPRESSURE POLICY
REF B IS A DEPSECDEF MEMO REGARDING COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
FOR WARFIGHTER BRAIN HEALTH
REF C IS THE DOD BLAST OVERPRESSURE REFERENCE INFORMATION GUIDE (D BOP RIG)
REF D IS THE DOD COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY-RELATED
NEUROCOGNITIVE ASSESSMENTS BY THE MILITARY
REF E IS THE DOD POLICY ON DEPLOYMENT HEALTH
REF F IS THE DOD IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE FOR MANAGING BRAIN HEALTH RISKS FOR
BLAST OVERPRESSURE//

RMKS/1. The Department of the Navy (DON) remains committed to the health and safety of our Sailors and Marines. Decades of combat operations have taught us that some injuries particularly to the brain may not be immediately apparent and repeated exposure to certain conditions can have cumulative effects. The science surrounding these exposures continues to evolve, and we recognize a strong relationship between Blast Overpressure (BOP) and the Warfighter Brain Health (WBH).

2. As discussed in reference (a), the WBH Initiative addresses concussions and other forms of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Brain injuries may result from direct impacts, exposure to blasts or low-level blasts or operation of certain weapons systems. BOP encompasses exposure to events that release energy through multiple pathways (impulse noise, pressure waves, body acceleration, and vibration), potentially causing injury. These exposures may occur in combat, operational evolutions and training environments.

3. Managing risks related to BOP and WBH spans across operations, training, safety, medical and information communities. Reference (b) establishes four pounds per square inch (psi) as the action threshold for BOP exposure. Per reference (c), the four psi action threshold is consistently reached or exceeded by operators of shoulder-fired weapons. Other activities, such as training involving detonations, have the potential to exceed four psi and may amplify or prolong exposures of any level. Therefore, DON categorizes such

personnel as high risk based on the definition below, and these personnel must complete a Cognitive Monitoring Program (CMP) baseline assessment by September 30, 2025 as required by reference (b). The Department of Defense (DoD) tool to complete a CMP baseline is the Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metrics.

a. High-risk is defined as all Active Component personnel assigned to units where they will or are likely to engage in training or operational activities that place them in the proximity of weapons systems recognized or suspected to produce hazardous BOP exposures often within a 12-month period. The term "often" means a more frequent or regular exposure, such as daily or multiple times per week, with little variability. The term "high-risk" would traditionally include those assigned to "warfighter" and training units.

4. All other DON active-duty military members must be baselined by September 30, 2027. These efforts are directly tied to overall force readiness.

5. CMP baseline assessments have been a longstanding pre- deployment requirement per references (d) and (e), though previously, shipboard personnel were exempt. Reference (b) rescinds that exemption. Currently, baseline assessment capabilities exist at several locations, including Camp Lejeune, Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms. A complete list of all CMP testing sites can be found at:

<https://esportal.med.navy.mil/bumed/rh/m3/M33/Pages/TBI.aspx>.

As there are many additional sites being created across the DoD, this list will be updated regularly.

6. Chief of Naval Operations and Commandant of the Marine Corps will:

a. Designate a Navy and a Marine Corps BOP Management Action Lead at the O-7 level or above to be responsible and accountable for implementing BOP and WBH requirements including those listed in the references. Notify Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment (ASN (EI&E)) via Memorandum of the BOP Management Action Lead designations no later than July 24, 2025. ASN

(EI&E) will coordinate with the BOP Management Action Leads to ensure implementation of all requirements.

7. The Management Action Leads for the Navy and the Marine Corps will ensure that Commanders and Commanding Officers:

a. Leverage existing capabilities at installations conducting live-fire activities to facilitate baseline cognitive assessments for personnel who are deemed high-risk based on the guidance above.

b. Utilize remaining capabilities to assess personnel who are deemed increased-risk based on the guidance above, followed by all remaining personnel if resources are available.

c. Support the establishment of additional testing locations, including but not limited to, providing physical space for testing sites (when necessary) and identifying personnel who can serve as proctors for testing.

d. Direct exposed personnel to existing training sites as capacity becomes available.

8. All DON personnel will:

a. Be vigilant for symptoms which may be attributable to exposure to BOP in oneself and others. An excellent resource created by the Defense Health Agency Traumatic Brain Injury Center of Excellence is the following:

<https://health.mil/Reference-Center/Fact-Sheets/2024/10/16/Low-Level-Blast-Service-Members-Fact-Sheet>

b. Promptly report suspected brain injuries to the cognizant medical department and chain of command.

9. Every member of the DON is responsible for minimizing the risk of brain injury. Through vigilance and proactive behavior, we strengthen our collective ability to protect our mission and our people.

10. Our success depends on the commitment of every Sailor, Marine, civilian, and contractor. Together, we will maintain a secure environment that protects both mission accomplishment and the safety of our force.

11. Released by the Honorable John C. Phelan, Secretary of the Navy.//

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